



## Arizona Medical Board

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### FINAL MINUTES FOR INTERNET PRESCRIBING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING Held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2006 9535 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona

#### **Subcommittee Members**

Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chair

Ram R. Krishna, M.D.

Douglas D. Lee, M.D.

William R. Martin III, M.D.

Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

#### **NON-TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS**

##### **I. Creation of Substantive Policy Statement on Internet Prescribing**

The meeting began at 12:30 p.m.

Timothy Miller, J.D., Executive Director announced this was the first meeting of the Internet Prescribing Subcommittee and that dates of future meetings will be determined at a later time. Mr. Miller said the purpose of the Subcommittee is to develop guidelines for presentation to the Legislature.

Ram R. Krishna, M.D. said he felt it was important for the Subcommittee to explain the difference between Telemedicine and Internet prescribing. Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D. commented that he would like to have the Subcommittee draft a Substantive Statement regarding this issue for the full Board review and approval.

Dr. Krishna said the Federation of State Medical Boards has addressed some of these issues and it may be helpful for the Subcommittee to review their conclusions.

Several individuals were present from public to observe and spoke at the Subcommittee Meeting. John Rao from Secure Medical Processing addressed the Subcommittee with his concerns. Mr. Rao said he processes payments for his company, an Internet prescribing company. Mr. Rao said his company has been prescribing on the Internet for going on for eight years now and has not had any issues, lawsuits or patient complaints during its entire time of business. Mr. Rao said about 65% Arizonians have purchased medications on the Internet. Mr. Rao said his company uses validation systems to verify patient information in order to ensure medications are being correctly and safely distributed.

Joel Korsunsky also addressed the Subcommittee and said he was also an employee of Secure Medical Processing. Mr. Korsunsky gave the Subcommittee a list of questions he requested be considered and also said he believed Internet prescribing was a safe way to distribute lifestyle medications that do not have significant side effects and that patients may be embarrassed to discuss with their physicians in person.

Adam Palmer addressed the Subcommittee, identifying himself as a private citizen. Mr. Palmer said noted the Arizona Medical Board has sanctioned physicians for issuing prescriptions without performing a physical examination on a patient. However, Mr. Palmer noted the Flu Vaccination is distributed widely to the population without any examination from a physician. Mr. Palmer also said he believes the Subcommittee's goal is protection of the public. He said, however, he is aware of no patient/public complaints or public protection concerns with Internet prescribing.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director